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Contact: Colleen Mullis  
(803) 898-2452  
(803) 605-4848 (cell)  
Colleen.Mullis@scdhhs.gov

**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services launches FQHC update to transparency website**  
*New data helps users view and interpret information on health centers*

**Columbia, SC** –The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) today rolled out a major update to its health care data website, [SCHealthData.org](http://SCHealthData.org). A wealth of data from 18 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) with locations across the state is now available on the website. The site's explanatory features also have been updated to include information on FQHCs. In addition, the ability to directly download data used on the site for both FQHCs and hospitals is also included in today's update.

FQHCs are organizations that receive federal grants under the Public Health Service Act because the centers treat all patients regardless of their ability to pay. The centers are also funded by state government. FQHCs help provide primary care to the uninsured and underinsured, and historically have operated in underserved rural or urban areas.

The FQHC update to SCHealthData.org represents a continuation of phase one of the new transparency tool, allowing users to compare key measures of performance, center locations and the demographics of patients served by each FQHC. The update also includes mapping, graphing and comparison tools for FQHCs across the state. The mapping feature includes the locations of centers' administrative sites and other care locations.

"FQHCs play a major role in South Carolina by helping us reach underserved patients, and the Legislature has invested significant funding in these centers," said SCDHHS Director Tony Keck. "Our agency will continue to work closely with all FQHCs to improve health across our state. This update to SCHealthData is another step in the ongoing conversation about how we deliver and pay for care in South Carolina and across the country. Citizens, legislators and news reporters can use this website to gain a better understanding of the intersections of systems of health care delivery, financial performance and demographics."

SCHealthData.org is part of SCDHHS's ongoing efforts to improve the value of health care delivered in South Carolina and meet the health care transparency requirements of Proviso 33.34 passed last year by the South Carolina Legislature.

A key catalyst behind SCDHHS's push to improve health care transparency can be found in the shifting dynamics of how consumers pay for health care. As patients are increasingly responsible for more out-of-pocket health care costs, it is critical that they have easy access to information to make informed choices. Lack of consumer access to prices, quality and cost is considered an important contributor to excess health care spending in the United States. In response to these forces, a growing national movement toward increasing health care transparency has emerged.

For example, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services over the last year has made a number of historic data releases related to quality and spending. SCHealthData.org is part of this movement.

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The FQHC update to SCHealthData.org was developed in collaboration with the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA).

“South Carolina’s Community Health Centers are vital to the communities they serve,” said Lathran Woodard, CEO of SCPHCA. “As such, we welcome the opportunity to partner with SCDHHS to further analyze this data to identify health center successes and challenges. At the state and national level, Community Health Centers have documented impressive improvements in quality and we are excited to share those achievements.”

In addition to showing visualizations and statistical comparisons between FQHCs based on several different sources of data as explained on SCHealthData.org’s “about” page, the website provides several other FQHC data resources that provide insight into centers’ operations. Those resources include IRS Form 990s and cost reports. The website’s “glossary” and “about” pages also have been updated to reflect the new FQHC data. In addition, SCHealthData.org also features updated links to other health care transparency resources from South Carolina and across the country.

As the site evolves, SCHealthData.org will further empower consumers by posting payment data for common hospital procedures, as well as validated data on hospital quality. Similar data for other health care providers also will be incorporated.

SCHealthData.org is complemented by [SC HealthViz](#), a recently launched South Carolina population health data website designed to provide greater transparency in state Medicaid data.

Visit SCHealthData at [SCHealthData.org](#) and follow [@SCHealthData](#) on Twitter

### By the Numbers

Below are some statewide data points for FQHCs based on information available on SCHealthData.org. See SCHealthData.org for more information on sources and terms used in the data points.

- The percent of the patient population served at FQHCs in South Carolina that is diabetic ranged from 10.7 percent to 27.1 percent in 2012.
- The percent of the patient population at each FQHC in South Carolina that was uninsured ranged from 23.9 percent to 55.0 percent in 2012.
- The average cost per patient at FQHCs in South Carolina increased by 13.0 percent from \$541.66 to \$613.26 from 2010 to 2012.
- The average visits per primary care provider at FQHCs in South Carolina ranged from 2,477 to 4,273 in 2012.
- The average cost per visit at FQHCs in South Carolina ranged from \$125.99 to \$256.01 in 2012.
- In 2012, the average cost per patient ranged from \$382.21 to \$1,347.18 at FQHCs in South Carolina.
- Overhead as a percent of cost ranged from a low of 20.7 percent to a high of 50.0 percent at FQHCs in South Carolina in 2012.
- South Carolina FQHCs incurred \$533,200,280 in costs in 2012.
- Collectively, FQHCs in South Carolina made a net profit of \$10,802,991 in 2012.

### About the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

*The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services provides health care benefits to more than one million South Carolinians. Its mission is to purchase the most health for our citizens in need at the least possible cost to the taxpayer.* Follow [@SCMedicaid](#) on Twitter!